GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:89
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
RELEASE OF FOREST LAND FOR PILGRIM CENTRES
Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to release forest land for the development of pilgrim centres which are located in forest areas in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, has diverted 124 hectares of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 during the last three years and the current year for development of pilgrim centres in various States.

(b)&(c) Information on the proposals received by the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years and the current year for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for development of pilgrim centres is given in the Annexure.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 89 BY SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS REGARDING "RELEASE OF FOREST LAND FOR PILGRIM CENTRES" DUE FOR REPLY ON 25.07.2005.

Information on Forestry Clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of the proposals received during the last three years and current year regarding development of pilgrim centres (as on 25.04.2005).

Sl. No.	Name of the proposal	Area (ha.)	Remarks
1.	Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Diversion of forest land for laying link road from Kona (Ramalingeshwaraswamy temple) in Ananthapur district to Guttappalli in Kurnool district.	1.92	Approved on 14.06.2004
2.	Diversion of forest land for construction of passenger ropeway from Tirupathi to Tirumala hills (Lord Venkateshwara temple).	1.44	Approved on 18.10.2004
3.	Diversion of forest land for construction of approach bridge from Nandyal-Giddalur road to Sarva Narasimha Swamy Temple.	0.05	Approved on 14.12.2004
4.	Diversion of forest land for construction of road and erection of 11 KV transmission line from Kapileswaram to Sangameswaran temple.	3.30	The proposal has been closed on 30.12.2004 for want of details.
2.	Himachal Pradesh		
1.	Diversion of forest land in favour of Radha Swami Satsang Beas Dera Jaimal Singh Society	0.2959	Approved on 02.12.2003

in Una district.

2. Diversion of forest land in favour of Vaishno Mata Mandir Committee in Kullu district. 0.452 Wanting details sought on 17.06.2004 from the State Government.

3. Diversion of forest land for construction of Shri Krishna Mandir Chairtable Trust in Solan district. 0.12 Approved on 27.07.2004

3. Karnataka

1. Diversion of forest land for renewal of lease for construction of Idgah for use of Muslim Resident Madina Jamya Masjid 0.6 Wanting details sought on 02.04.2004 from the State Government.

2. Diversion of forest land for construction of intake well, jack-well, intermediate pumping station & laying of pipeline for providing drinking water supply from Cauvery river to Sri Malai Mahadeshwara temple. 0.65 Rejected on 15.07.2004

3. Diversion of forest land for construction of Smaraka Mantapa in memory of Saint Sri Vadiraja Swamiji at Sode Thapovan in Uttar Kannada district in favour of Viswathma Theertha Swamiji of Sode Vadiraj Math. 0.02 The proposal has been closed on 08.07.2004 for want of details.

4. Kerala

1. Diversion of forest land for irrigation components in Pampa and Kakki rivers. 1.4425 Approval granted on 27.12.2004.

2. Diversion of forest land at Nilackal for developing a Base Camp/Satellite township in favour of Travancore Devaswom Board. 20.00 Approval granted on 07.01.2005.

3. Diversion of forest land for development of Nilackal Base Camp for Sabarimala pilgrims in favour of Travancore Devaswom Board in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala. 90.524 Approval granted on 05.05.2005.

4. Diversion of forest land to Travancore Devaswom Board for providing facilities to Sabarimala pilgrims. 12.675 # Since the area falls in the Periyar Tiger Reserve, prior permission of National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is required.

The proposal has been cleared by the Standing Committee of NBWL on 20.05.2005 and permission of the Apex Court is to be obtained by the User Agency (as on 21.07.2005)

5. Punjab

1. Diversion of forest land for Radha Swami Stasang (Beas) in Ropar district. 1.092 Wanting details sought on 31.01.2005 from the State

Government.

6. Sikkim

1. Diversion of forest land to Tendong Hill Pilgrimage Centre Development Committee.	0.4213	Since no clearing or breaking up of forest land and no permanent construction was involved, the proposal was returned to the State Government to regulate the same as per normal procedure under the State Forest Act.

7. Tamil Nadu

1. Diversion of forest land for electrification to the Palamalai Swamy temple.	0.1392	Approved on 30.10.2002.

8. Maharashtra

1. Diversion of forest land for Dharamshal Prasadalaya Toilet Block for devotees in Nasik district.	1.2	Returned to the State Government on 28.07.2003 due to incomplete information/procedure.
2. Diversion of forest land for construction of Shri Balyogi Sadhanad Ashram in Thane district.	0.69	Returned to the State Government on 26.04.2004 due to incomplete information/procedure.
3. Diversion of forest land for development of Manudevi Temple Trust in Jalgaon district.	0.24	Approved on 02.11.2004.

9. Gujarat

1. Diversion of forest land for construction of Visama on Shetrunjay Hill in Bhavnagar district.	0.0042	Approved on 22.01.2003.
2. Diversion of forest land for construction of Visama on Shetrunjay Hill in Bhavnagar district.	0.96	Approved on 08.07.2004.

10. Madhya Pradesh

1. Diversion of forest land for construction of Paramhamsa Ashram in Satna district.	3.609	Approved on 07.03.2003.

11. Rajasthan

1. Diversion of forest land for installation of a passenger ropeway at Shri Shavitri Mata Mandir.	0.874	Approved.
2. Diversion of forest land for installation of a ropeway to Sugandhmata Temple.	0.7652	Approved.

12. Uttaranchal

1. Diversion of forest land for Satimatha Mandir and Ashram construction.	0.1	Approved.
2. Diversion of forest land for Baba Kali Kamli Wala.	0.392	Approved.
3. Diversion of forest land for Hanuman Mandir and Ashram.	0.56	Approved.
4. Diversion of forest land for Tosri Baba Hadakhan Mandir Trust, Chiliyanaula Charitable Research Hospital.	0.2	Approved.
5. Diversion of forest land for Shri Shri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sanskrit College and Hospital Trust.	0.10	Rejected on merit.
6. Diversion of forest land for Neem Karoli Baba under Rishikesh Range.	0.4	Approved.